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KFOR COMPLETES PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF EXPLOSION

Explosives experts from KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East), in cooperation with the Kosovo Police Service and UNMIK-Police, completed a preliminary investigation into the explosion that killed a woman near Klokot on Oct. 15.

The investigation revealed that a TMM-1 anti-tank land mine exploded in the blast area. The team's assessment was that there was no definitive way to determine how long the mine had been present. KFOR's Mine Action Center records indicated that the area had been mined during the war and was cleared twice by certified civilian de-mining companies. KFOR continues to investigate this incident.

During the course of the preliminary investigation, in order to maintain the safety of citizens in the area, KFOR, UNMIK-Police and KPS limited access to both the field where the explosion occurred and the road immediately adjacent to it. While the limited access caused traffic flow problems, there were still available roads for citizens to freely travel through the area. Access to the road has since been restored.

KFOR had detained an individual who sped by one of the checkpoints limiting access to the explosion area. That individual was released the next

day after it was determined the reason for his behavior was that he was related to the deceased.

For the safety of all concerned, citizens were asked to stay out of the field until explosives experts could complete their preliminary investigation. KFOR soldiers physically removed a television crew from the field and detained them momentarily when the crew ignored repeated requests to stay out of the blast area. The area KFOR believes to be a hazard area has been clearly marked, and citizens have been asked to stay out of that area.

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